

**Cooper**

**COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY**

04T-001 4/15

701 LIMA AVENUE  
FINDLAY, OHIO 45840

JAMES E. KLINE  
VICE PRESIDENT,  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
& SECRETARY

January 27, 2004

(419) 427-4757  
Fax: (419) 420-8052  
E-Mail: jekline@cooperire.com

**SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED 7106 4578 1282 4110 2560**

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
**NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION**  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Gentlemen:

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company has determined that a non-compliance which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in four hundred forty-one (441) tires as set forth in the attached Defect and Noncompliance Report dated January 22, 2004.

These tires are being voluntarily recalled.

A copy of this letter, with attachments, is being faxed to the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) for review by ODI of the proposed owner notification letters pursuant to 49 CFR Section 573.5(c)(10). We are asking ODI to approve the sample owner letters. Hard copy will follow. Unless advised otherwise by ODI, owner notification will begin February 4, 2004. Three copies of the appropriate notification to dealers and customers are attached as exhibits in response to Item 9 of the Defect and Noncompliance Information Report.

Our envelope format for owner recall notification letters as required under 49 CFR 577.5(a) has been previously approved by ODI.

Cooper will provide the required quarterly report on the status of the above-mentioned campaign.

RECEIVED  
100-123-2 PD 4-09  
COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY  
FINDLAY, OHIO 45840

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
**NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION**  
January 27, 2004  
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Please advise James E. Kline of the NHTSA assigned campaign number.

Very truly yours,



James E. Kline

JEK/rig

002883v1 <signature> -01-27-04 NHTSA re recall W126Jupd

Attachments

cc: Office of Defects Investigation "NSA-10"  
Department of Transportation  
**NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION**  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
Fax Number 202/386-7862  
Attn: Mr. George Person  
Recall Management Regulations

04T-001 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>15</sub>

**COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY**  
**DEFECT AND NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT**

DATE: 01/22/04

NHTSA CAMPAIGN NO.

COOPER NO. 126

**1. NAME OF MANUFACTURER**

A. Fabricating Manufacturer: Cooper Tire & Rubber Company

B. Brand Name or Trademark Owner:

**BRAND NAME**

COOPER WEATHER MASTER ST-2

**OWNER**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company

**2. POTENTIAL NUMBER OF AFFECTED TIRES** (Including a description of the basis for the determination of the recall population and a description of how these items differ from similar items not included in the recall):

<u>Description (including size)</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates (week and year) of Manufacture</u>	<u>Number of Potentially Affected Units</u>	<u>Estimated Percent Containing Defect or Noncompliance</u>
235/75R15 Tubeless Radial Standard Load			
COOPER WEATHER MASTER ST-2	U91TC744403 - E13L U91TC744503 - E13L	366 75	0.316% 7.23%

Nov. 2, 2003 thru Nov. 15, 2003

The recall population was determined by a review of our Curing Department records and our internal inventory count reconciliation. The tires being recalled differ from similar items in that they were molded with a different DOT serial week and year (4403 - 4503) in accordance with 49 CFR 574.5.

**3. TOTAL UNITS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 441**

**4. TOTAL ESTIMATED PERCENT CONTAINING DEFECT: 3.04%**

**COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY**  
**DEFECT AND NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT**

5. **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT OR NONCOMPLIANCE** (Including brief summary and detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance):

The affected tires may have innerliner tears caused by the process of ejecting the tire from the mold after curing. We have observed that when this condition exists, it appears only in the interior bead areas approximately 0.50" from the bead toe.

The affected tires in this campaign have been isolated to a single press location. The press medallion label is E13L, which is molded directly adjacent to the DOT Serial Number.

6. **CHRONOLOGY OF ALL PRINCIPLE EVENTS THAT WERE THE BASIS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF A SAFETY RELATED DEFECT** (Including a summary of all warranty claims, field service reports, and other information, with their dates of receipt):

During visual inspection on November 17, 2003, tires produced in curing press E13L during DOT serial week 4603 were found with the torn innerliner condition. Upon further investigation, we determined the potential existed for tires produced during DOT serial weeks 4403 - 4603 to have the condition. Our inventory of weeks 4403 - 4603 has been completely sorted and re-inspected with a total of 39 tires found to have this condition. All tires produced during week 4603 have been accounted for in our inventory. For weeks 4403 and 4503, there was a total net cure of 1,282 tires, of which we have accounted for 841 tires and there are 441 tires unaccounted for. Cooper is voluntarily recalling these 441 tires.

7. **COMPLIANCE TESTING OR OTHER DATA THAT WAS THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE EXISTENCE OF NONCOMPLIANCE:**

The existence of the condition was determined by visual inspection.

8. **STATEMENT OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY THE DEFECT OR NONCOMPLIANCE:**

Tires with the affected DOT serial week identification numbers and press medallion E13L should be shipped to one of our regional inspection points. All tires returned to Cooper will be inspected for the correct DOT identification number and press medallion. Any tire found to have the affected DOT serial numbers (4403 or 4503) and the torn innerliner condition will be scrapped.

9. **ENCLOSURES, IF ANY** (Three copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications that were sent to more than one distributor, dealer or purchaser and relate directly to the defect or noncompliance):

See Exhibit Index and Exhibits I and II

**COOPER RADIAL PASSENGER TIRE RECALL CAMPAIGN**

- Exhibit I**      Notification to Cooper dealers consisting of Cooper Dealer Letter, Cooper Consumer Letter and Forms (See Exhibit II for forms).
- Exhibit II**      Forms as included in notifications above where noted. ( packing slip & map ).


 Cooper

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**COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY**
 701 LIMA AVENUE  
 FINDLAY, OHIO 45840-2915  
 TELEPHONE: (419) 423-1321

February XX, 2004

Dear Dealer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in some tires identified as follows:

235/75R15      Tubeless Radial      Standard Load      Cooper Weathermaster ST-2      441 Tires

Identification Numbers: U91TC744403  
 U91TC744503

With Press Medallion Number E13L

Our company's surveillance indicates that the tires described above may have innerliner tears caused by the process of ejecting the tire from the mold after curing. We have observed that when this condition exists, it appears only in the interior bead area approximately 0.60" from the bead toe. When this condition exists, it could result in accelerated air loss. The loss of air could cause the tire to run under-inflated and result in early failure. Loss of air might result in loss of steering control with vehicle crash the potential occurrence. Driving at highway speeds should be avoided until the tires have been inspected and replaced if they bear the identification number(s) shown above.

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company is voluntarily recalling all of the tires with the identification number(s) and press medallion number listed. Effective immediately, you or your dealers must not sell any of the tires listed and described above.

You should also comply with the following instructions regarding the return of new and used tires at no charge in accordance with such provisions.

**PROCEDURE FOR RETURN AND CREDIT OF RECALLED TIRES****NEW TIRES:**

All recalled new tires existing in your inventory, or in your sub-dealers' inventories, should be returned immediately in one shipment, freight collect, to the designated inspection point for your area as indicated on the attached map. To assure proper handling, these tires should be listed on the attached Returned Goods Form and the form must accompany this shipment in the packing slip envelope provided. This envelope must be listed on the bill of lading as: "1 envelope - related shipping documents."

Upon verification by Cooper that the tires returned are within the recall group, we will issue credit to you based upon your invoice price of the tires.

**USED TIRES:**

Cooper Tire's registration records are being searched and consumers who have purchased tires with the subject identification number(s) are being notified of the RECALL. Attached for your information is a copy of the notification being sent to such consumers. Tires removed from consumer vehicles as a result of this RECALL should be replaced with tires of like size and construction bearing identification numbers other than those listed above.

We have advised the consumer to return his recalled tire(s) and his letter to you. If your inspection verifies that the consumer has a tire(s) with the suspect identification number(s) and press medallion number, the tire(s) should be replaced, mounted and balanced at no charge, if presented for remedy within sixty (60) days after (i) receipt of this letter or (ii) notice that a replacement tire(s) is available (if not available at the time of the inspection). It is expected that replacement tire(s) will be available at the time of inspection, however, if the tires are not available at the time of inspection, they will be available within twenty-one (21) days. After expiration of the sixty (60) days, tires will be replaced under our normal adjustment policy.

We have advised the consumer that it will take approximately thirty (30) minutes each to replace the recalled tires. For any tires removed from consumer vehicles during such sixty (60) day period, Cooper Tire will authorize an allowance of \$8.00 per tire to cover mounting and balancing.

**"YOU ARE PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW FROM SELLING NEW OR USED TIRES COVERED BY THIS NOTIFICATION."**

Tires removed from consumer vehicles must be listed on our standard Tire and Tube Claim Form. The Claim Form must be properly completed and signed by the consumer and the consumer's copy of the recall letter attached. This claim form must accompany the shipment according to standard adjustment procedures.

For the purpose of the RECALL, the Claim Form must include RECALL tires only. The word "RECALL" must be printed directly below the name and address on the claim form. All tires should be identified in crayon with the Claim Form reference number per standard adjustment procedures.

Upon verification by Cooper Tire, credit will be issued to you on a no charge replacement basis if replaced by you and returned to Cooper on or before ninety (90) days after notice of this RECALL.

You should return in one shipment all recalled used tires to the inspection point as indicated on the attached map. These tires should be classified as SCRAP and shipped as SCRAP RUBBER TIRES, freight collect. Freight collect privileges apply only within the prescribed time period. Any tires returned after the designated time will be handled under our regular adjustment procedures.

Cooper Tire requests that you advise it of those customers of yours, if any, who have purchased any of the tires described above for which registration forms have not previously been submitted so that such customers can be advised of the recall and the replacement of their recalled tires can be scheduled.

If you have any questions pertaining to the implementation of this RECALL or need assistance, please contact Cooper Tire Consumer Relations Department (800) 854-8288.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Thomas, Operations Manager  
Consumer Relations

JDT:kaw

Attachments



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**COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY**701 LIMA AVENUE  
FINDLAY, OHIO 45840-2915  
TELEPHONE: (419) 423-1321

Dear Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in some tires identified as follows:

235/75R15 Tubeless Radial Standard Load Cooper Weathermaster ST-2

Identification Numbers: U91TC744403  
U91TC744503

With Press Medallion Number: E13L

Our company's surveillance indicates that the tires described above may have innerliner tears caused by the process of ejecting the tire from the mold after curing. We have observed that when this condition exists, it appears only in the interior bead areas approximately 0.50" from the bead toe. When this condition exists, it could result in accelerated air loss. The loss of air could cause the tire to run under-inflated and result in early failure. Loss of air might result in loss of steering control with vehicle crash the potential occurrence. Driving at highway speeds should be avoided until the tires have been inspected and replaced if they bear the identification number(s) and press medallion number shown above.

Cooper Tire is voluntarily recalling all of the tires with the identification number(s) and press medallion number above. To insure your safety and satisfaction with our product, we request that you return the recalled tires and this letter to your dealer. If the inspection verifies that you have a tire or tires with the suspect identification number(s) and press medallion number, they will be replaced, mounted and balanced at no charge to you if you have presented them for remedy within sixty (60) days after (i) receipt of this letter or (ii) notice that a replacement tire is available (if not available at the time of inspection). It is expected that replacement tires will be available at the time of inspection, however, if the tires are not available at the time of inspection, they will be available within twenty-one (21) days. After expiration of the sixty (60) day period, tires will be replaced under our normal adjustment policy.

The time required to determine if the tire is subject to RECALL is only a few minutes and approximately thirty (30) minutes per tire if replacement is required.



Should any questions or problems arise while your tires are being inspected or replaced, please call Consumer Relations at (800) 854-6288. We will attempt to be of service to you. In the event you believe we have failed to or are unable to replace your tire(s) without charge to you, within the sixty (60) day period described above, you may so notify the Secretary of Transportation at the following address: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590, or phone NHTSA "Hot Line" (888) 327-4236.

We regret this inconvenience, but are sure that you understand our interest in your safety and satisfaction with your tires. Please see your dealer immediately for free replacement of the recalled tires. Give this letter to them so that it can be returned to us for purposes of this recall.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Thomas, Operations Manager  
Consumer Relations

JDT:kaw

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TO BE COMPLETED BY DEALER

Tires inspected and replaced \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Dealer stamp or name and address

Dealer: Please complete the above, attach letter to the tire and tube claim form and return with the recalled tires.

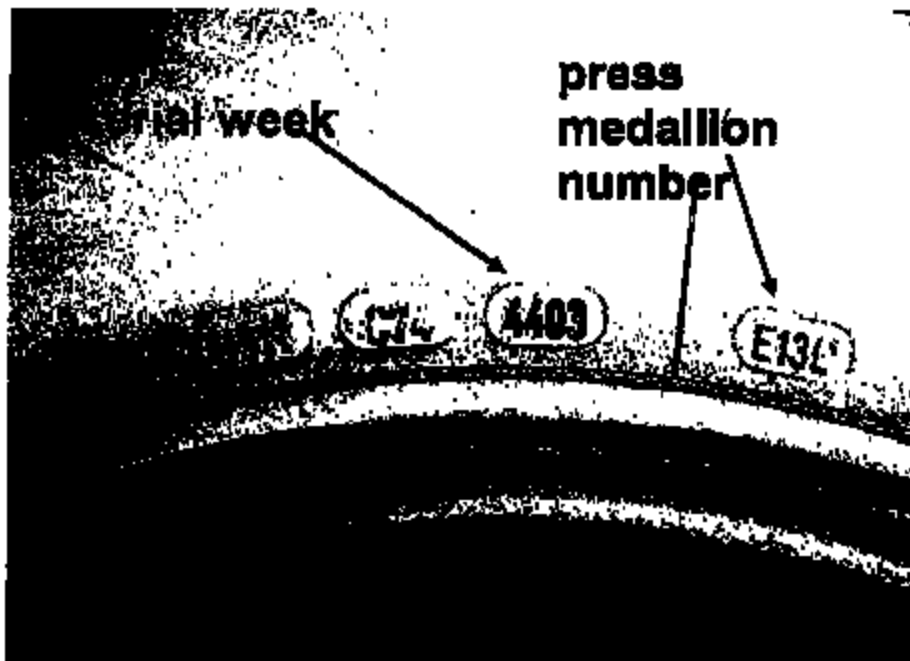
235/75R15 COOPER WEATHERMASTER ST-2

OYT-001 (10/15)

STEEL BELTED RADIAL

RECALL #126 OF JANUARY 2004

FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES - ONLY TIRES WITH THE SUBJECT SERIAL NUMBERS AND THE PRESS MEDALLION NUMBER "E13L" ARE BEING RECALLED. THE PHOTO BELOW SHOWS AN EXAMPLE OF A RECALLED TIRE SERIAL NUMBER AND THE PRESS MEDALLION NUMBER INVOLVED IN THIS RECALL.



## Exhibit II

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**Tires Returned To:**  
**Cooper Tire & Rubber Company**  
**Regional Inspection Point**

**Returned From:**  
**(Dealer Name and Address)**

Date Shipped \_\_\_\_\_

**Dealer Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST EACH TIRE SEPARATELY - ONE TIRE PER LINE**

[illegible]

**NEW TIRES FROM INVENTORY - UNMOUNTED**

12/15

**Tires Returned To:  
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Regional Inspection Point**

Returned From:  
(Dealer Name and Address)

**Dealer Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

04T-001 (13/15)

**ALL ADJUSTMENT PAPER WORK:**

**COOPER TIRE  
PO BOX 550  
FINDLAY, OH 45839**

OVER 1000 LBS. CAN BE SENT FREIGHT  
COLLECT- CHECK SCRAP RUBBER CLASS 60  
\*DO NOT USE YELLOW FREIGHT UNLESS THE  
OTHER REGIONAL CARRIERS DO NOT PICK UP  
FROM YOUR LOCATION.

**COOPER TIRE  
REGIONAL INSPECTION POINTS AND  
REQUIRED CARRIERS FOR ADJUSTMENT  
TIRES & TUBES**

**COOPER TIRE COMPANY REP  
141 STANFORD PKWY.  
FINDLAY, OH 45846**

-OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE  
800-235-6588  
-FED EX FREIGHT EAST  
800-674-4723 X2174  
-FINDLAY TRUCK LINE (OH ONLY)  
419-422-1945  
-YELLOW FREIGHT  
800-610-6500

**COOPER TIRE COMPANY NP  
5363 LUCAS RANCH ROAD  
RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730**

-CRESENT  
800-722-3171  
-YELLOW FREIGHT  
800-610-6500

**COOPER TIRE COMPANY NP  
2041 1/2 WASHINGTON ST.  
TEXARKANA, AR 71664**

-OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE  
800-235-6588  
-FED EX FREIGHT EAST  
800-674-4723 X2174  
-YELLOW FREIGHT  
800-610-6500

**COOPER TIRE COMPANY NP  
2340 SYLVESTER ROAD  
ALBANY, GA 31705**

-OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE  
800-235-6588  
-FED EX FREIGHT EAST  
800-674-4723 X2174  
-YELLOW FREIGHT  
800-610-6500



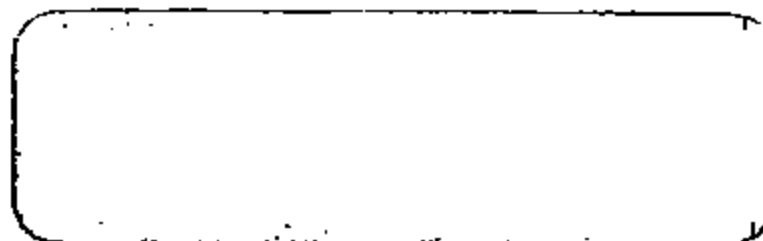
Cooper

COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY  
MEXICO, OHIO 43044

04T.001

14/15

**IMPORTANT: PACKING SLIP ENCLOSED**



**BILL OF LADING NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**TRAILER NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Packing Slip enclosed must be delivered with the first portion of shipment.  
Compliance will expedite unloading.**





COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY  
FINDLAY, OHIO 45840

04T-001 (5/15)

## SAFETY RECALL NOTICE